



Old Fletton Urban District Council.

ANNUAL REPORTS


of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and the

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

for 1970.



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OLD FLETON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

(as at 31st December, 1970)

Councillor T. E. J. CROFTS (Chairman)

W. R. CASHMORE

A. D. COLEMAN

H. J. ELSOM

Mrs. P. FISHPOOL

M. H. HOLL

G. H. PALMER

J. W. B. TAYLOR

G. W. WILSON

STAFF

Medical Officer of Health PHILIP V. CANT, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Surveyor & Chief Public Health Inspector L. DEARDEN, A.I.A.S.,
A.M.I.P.H.E., M.A.P.H.I.
Barrister-at-Law

Deputy Surveyor & Public Health Inspector.....T.A. WHITE, M.A.P.H.I.

Trainee Public Health Inspector.....M. A. TIGHE

To The Old Fletton Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my thirteenth Annual Report on the sanitary conditions of the District for the year ending December, 31st 1970.

The District lies immediately to the south of the City of Peterborough. The main industries are brick-making, sugar manufacture, engineering, food canning and printing. Many of the residents earn their living by working in the City.

The Registrar General estimates that the mid-year population of the District was 13,460, an increase of 130 over the previous year.

There were 235 live births during the year, the crude birth rate being 17.5 per 1,000 population. The adjusted rate was 15.2 per 1,000 as compared to the rate of 16 for England and Wales.

There were 3 % of illegitimate live births as compared to 8 % in England and Wales.

There were 3 still-births and 3 infant deaths. The still-birth rate was the same as the national rate, 13 per 1,000 total births. The Infant Mortality rate was also 13 per 1,000 live births, the national rate being 18.

During the year 109 deaths occurred, 66 males and 43 females. The crude death rate was 8.1 per 1,000 and the adjusted rate 10.9 per 1,000 of the population as compared to a rate of 11.7 for England and Wales.

Twenty eight people died of cancer in one or other of its forms; in 9 cases it was cancer of the lung or bronchus and this year they were all men.

Twenty-seven people died of Ischaemic Heart Disease, in this case 14 men and 13 women.

There were fewer cases of notifiable infectious disease during the year than is usual. The most frequent were Measles 49 cases and Infective Jaundice 18 cases.

The latter half of the year was noteworthy in that the County, through the School Medical Service, launched a campaign to immunise all girls against German Measles in their 14th year. This is in order to prevent them catching this disease later on in life, during pregnancy, since if this occurs there is a possibility that the baby may have congenital abnormalities. I advise all parents to have their daughters immunised under this scheme. It only requires one injection and may save the girls a lot of worry in the future.

The water supply throughout the District was satisfactory during the year. It is obtained from the South Lincolnshire Water Board. It is very hard in character but of good quality. It contains only a small amount of fluoride, but this cannot be altered until it is agreed upon by the Local Authorities comprising the Water Board. Bacteriological samples are examined approximately weekly by the Water Board at the point where the water enters the District.

I wish to thank the Members of the Council and their Officers and Staff and my Professional Colleagues in the District for their help and co-operation during the year.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area	3029 acres
Estimated Population (mid 1970)	13,460
Density of persons per acre	4.4
Number of Inhabited Houses, end of 1970	4,393
Rateable Value, 31/12/70	£678,592
Value of Penny Rate, 31/3/70	£2,645

VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Births	235
Live birth rate per 1,000 population	17.5
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births	3
Still-births	3
Still-births rate per 1,000 live and still-births	13
Total live and still-births	238
Infant deaths	3
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births—total	13
Perinatal mortality rate per 1,000 total births	21
Maternal deaths (including abortion)	Nil
Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 live and still-births	Nil
Death rate per 1,000 population	8.1

INFANT DEATHS

	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970
Actual Number of Deaths	2	4	5	3	4	3
Rates All Infants Per 1,000 Live Births	8.9	15.2	20	13	17	13
Deaths from Cancer including Leukaemia						28
Malignant Neoplasm Lung, Bronchus						9
Ischaemic Heart Disease						27

Comparison of rates with those of England & Wales.

	Per 1,000 Population				Per 1,000 Live Births	Per 1,000 Total Births
	Live Birth Rate	Ad-justed Birth Rate	Crude Death Rate	Ad-justed Death Rate	Infantile Mortality Rate	Still Births Rate
Old Fletton U.D.C.	17.5	15.2	8.1	10.9	13	13
England & Wales	16.0	16.0	11.7	11.7	18	13

Comparability Factor for Births	0.87
Comparability Factor for Deaths	1.34

(The Comparability Factors are figures by which the crude-birth and death rates need to be multiplied so as to find the adjusted rates. The adjusted rates are then comparable with the rates for England and Wales, or the adjusted rates of any other place in the Country.

The Registrar General calculates the factors from information available to him concerning, amongst other things, the age and sex structure of the population.)

The following table shows the classification of deaths from all causes (Registrar-General's figures) :—

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Males	Females	Total
Tuberculosis of Respiratory system	1	—	1
Malignant neoplasm, oesophagus	1	—	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	5	—	5
Malignant neoplasm, intestine	—	3	3
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	9	—	9
Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	3	3
Malignant neoplasm, prostate	1	—	1
Other malignant neoplasms	3	3	6
Other endocrine etc. diseases	1	—	1
Chronic rheumatic heart disease	—	1	1
Hypertensive disease	1	1	2
Ischaemic heart disease	14	13	27
Other forms of heart disease	1	1	2
Cerebrovascular disease	7	5	12
Other diseases of circulatory system	3	1	4
Influenza	1	—	1
Pneumonia	3	5	8
Bronchitis and emphysema	7	2	9
Other diseases of respiratory system	1	—	1
Peptic ulcer	1	—	1
Other diseases of digestive system	1	—	1
Congenital anomalies	2	—	2
Birth injury, difficult labour, etc.	1	—	1
Other causes of perinatal mortality	—	1	1
Symptoms and ill defined conditions	—	1	1
Motor vehicle accidents	1	—	1
All other accidents	1	3	4
TOTAL	66	43	109

The following table gives the incidence of notifiable diseases (other than tuberculosis) in the area during 1970.

Total Deaths	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|
Cases admitted to Hospital	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|
65 & upwards	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|
45 — 65	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|
35 — 45	|	|	|	|	|	1	|	|	1	|	|
20 — 35	|	|	1	|	|	3	|	|	1	|	|
15 — 20	|	|	|	|	|	2	|	|	1	|	|
10 — 15	|	|	|	|	|	8	|	|	|	|	|
5 — 10	|	|	11	|	|	4	1	|	|	|	|
4 — 5	|	1	10	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|
3 — 4	|	|	10	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|
2 — 3	|	|	8	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|
1 — 2	|	|	5	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|
under 1 year	|	|	4	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|
TOTAL	|	1	49	|	|	18	1	|	3	|	|
DISEASE	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....

Smallpox	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Scarlet Fever	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Diphtheria	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Measles	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Whooping Cough	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Poliomyelitis	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Jaundice	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Acute Meningitis	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Food Poisoning	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Dysentery	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Typhoid Fever	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....

Tuberculosis.

AGE PERIODS	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—15.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—25.....	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—35.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—45.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—55.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—65.....	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 & upwards.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL:—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

I am,

Your obedient servant,

PHILIP V. CANT,

Medical Officer of Health.

The Child Health Centre,
Whittlesey Road,
Stanground,
Nr. Peterborough. PE2 8RB
Tel. Peterborough 68010

To The Medical Officer of Health:

Sir,

I beg to submit my report for the year ending December 1970.

HOUSING

The only Council housing completed during the year was a group of six 'Guildway' bungalows on a former slum clearance site. These dwellings, with a timber constructional framework manufactured off site but clad with local brick, proved popular, and have so far given little trouble with maintenance. A further six, of which one will be the first two-bedroom bungalow the Council have built, are to be erected on an adjoining site when this is cleared of condemned property. The Council are now concentrating their efforts on providing dwellings for the elderly, and since it would be socially wrong to build these in the form of an estate, propose to use a number of small areas scattered throughout the district, the majority of which have been acquired as a result of slum demolition procedures. The Council's Architect is now working on preliminary drawings and costings for sites off Huntly Road, Wootton Avenue, High Street, South Street, and Burystead. It is proposed that dwellings on the latter shall be of traditional construction, but the remainder will be of timber frame with brick skin. Several different designs in this category are being assessed, and the one which is chosen will be used on all these sites.

Progress on the Bakers Lane site which is a joint venture with the Peterborough Development Corporation was disappointing, difficulties over land acquisition delaying a decision by the Corporation to make a start. It is hoped that this scheme may commence during the coming year.

Private house completions increased from 48 to 72. This included 18 dwellings erected by the Minster Housing Society, and I found great satisfaction in seeing this 'third arm' of housing provision at last making a contribution to the variety of housing available to the public.

Due to the completion of a large Council housing programme in the preceding year, the total number of new houses built in the district this year fell, in spite of the increase in private house completions, from 102 to 72.

Seven Council houses were sold to sitting tenants, an increase of three on the previous year. Forty-three valuations of private and Council dwellings were made, the majority being for mortgage applications. This was over three times as many as in the preceding year, and is an indication of the increase in the number of persons wishing to purchase their own homes.

The decision by the Government to increase the amounts payable for Improvement Grants had its effect in a rise in the number of applications approved from 12 to 34. These were not all carried out during the calendar year, and disbursements were in fact lower at £1,598.

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year :—	
(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	1753
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	2077
(2) Total number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	Nil
(3) Number of dwelling-houses(exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	Nil
2. Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of Formal Notices—	
Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers excluding those dealt with by Improvement Grants	6
3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—	
(A) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 12 of the Housing Act, 1957 :—	
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners	Nil
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil
(B) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—	
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied....	1
(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners	1
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil
(C) Proceedings under Section 42 Part III of the Housing Act, 1957	
CLEARANCE AREAS	
(1) Number of Clearance Areas declared during the year	2
(2) Total number of houses included in (1) above	10
(3) Number of houses included by reason of unfitness for human habitation	10
(4) Number of houses included by reason of bad arrangement, etc.	Nil

(5) Number of families displaced during the year	10
(6) Number of houses demolished during the year	10
(D) Proceedings under Sections 16, 17 & 35 of the Housing Act 1957.	
(1) Houses made subject to closing Orders.	2

SLUM CLEARANCE

Slum Clearance Orders Nos. 16 and 17 totalling ten dwellings were submitted to the Ministry for confirmation during the year, and two Closing Orders were made on individual properties. Eleven houses were demolished and twelve families were rehoused.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

As I reported last year the Council instructed their Consulting Engineers to prepare a short term scheme for improving the performance of their Disposal works whilst proposals for a long term sewerage scheme were still being considered. The most urgent needs are for increased oxidation and humus solids retention. This to be achieved by the installation of a steel paddle on the principle of a Kessener brush for aeration purposes, an addition of Banks clarifiers to three old humus tanks, and construction of an effluent ditch with facilities for humus removal.

The difficulties experienced due to crust formation in the sludge digestion tank proved too stubborn to resolve by any means available with the existing installation. Accordingly your Superintendent and myself made a visit to the Slough Disposal Works to see an installation designed both for circulation and crust removal by the reintroduction into the digester under pressure of gas produced by the sludge itself. We were impressed by what we saw and considered it superior to the alternative proposal of using water under pressure for the same purpose. Accordingly the Engineers included a similar installation in the short term scheme referred to above. It is hoped that both installations will be in operation during the coming year and that they will help to arrest the decline in the standard of effluent being produced.

REFUSE DISPOSAL

A system of bonus payments was introduced, covering the whole of the Council's manual staff, of which the refuse section is the largest in terms of number of men employed. The net result of the scheme, so far as this section is concerned, was that a weekly collection was maintained, apart from Bank holidays, throughout the year, with one less employee than previously, whilst the men's earnings rose by 10%. At the same time we were able to continue with collection of bulky articles on Saturdays, and even increased this due to the reduction in the number of occasions when ordinary refuse collection had to be carried out on Saturdays to maintain the service. All refuse collected was disposed of on our Woodston tip, and due to the compaction and covering work of the crawler/bulldozer, there was no trouble with

fires. The oldest collection vehicle was due for replacement and an order was therefore placed for a vehicle having facilities for handling bulk refuse containers, and for effecting a degree of compression of material in the lorry body. Delivery was promised for November/December, but in fact had not been made by the end of the year.

STREET SWEEPING

Staff and equipment employed on this service remained as in the previous year. We continued to deal with classified roads on behalf of the County Council not only for sweeping, but for gully emptying, and were reimbursed by that authority for this service.

FOOD AND DRUGS

During the year 3 cwts 39 lbs of food products were condemned. This included food from retailers' refrigerators affected by breakdowns, which is becoming an increasingly important factor in food spoilage.

The food trades in the district are made up as follows:—

Hotels	..	..	..	..	..	1
Bakehouses	..	..	..	..	..	1
Works Canteens	..	..	..	..	..	5
School Kitchens	..	..	..	..	..	4
Fried Fish	..	..	..	..	..	7
Butchers	..	..	..	..	..	6
Meat Products	..	..	..	..	..	1
Grocery	..	..	..	..	..	35
Licensed premises	..	..	..	..	..	13

The premises comply with the requirements of Sections 16 and 19 of the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960.

POULTRY PROCESSING PREMISES.

There are no Poultry Processing premises in the district.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

At the end of 1970 there were 39 premises within the Urban District which were covered by the above Act. Briefly speaking, the Act covers any office or shop where a person, not of the immediate family of the owner, is employed for more than 21 hours per week. In addition to the 39 quoted above there were other premises covered by the Act where action was enforceable by the Inspector of Factories.

Altogether there are 521 persons employed in registered premises within the District. Thirty-one contraventions of the Act were found on inspection and all were dealt with informally. No accidents were reported during the year.

PETROLEUM ACTS AND REGULATIONS

The number of licensed installations is 26, all of which were inspected during the year.

RODENT CONTROL

The number of complaints received was the same as in 1969. No warfarin-resistance has been encountered, and warfarin continues to be the chief poison for use against rats, although Alpha-chloralose is now used for mice.

CLEAN AIR ACT

The extension of Smoke Control Areas received a serious set back during the year due to warnings from the Ministry and the Coal Board that there would be a severe shortage of solid smokeless fuels. There was a large scale conversion of public buildings from solid fuel to oil-fired central heating, and the Ministry agreed to the revocation of a number of Smoke Control Orders. In the event there was no shortage which, although welcome in itself, again shook confidence in the accuracy of official forecasting of supply resources, which is vital to local authorities' programming.

These difficulties in fuel supplies were the main theme at the annual conference of the Clean Air Society which was attended by Councillor Cashmore and myself.

Pre-designation of the Bakers Lane site as a smoke control area will result in further dwellings being added to the numbers already under control as house building progresses on this land.

NOISE NUISANCE

The main investigation into noise carried out during the year was that concerning the testing of hovercraft on one of the L.B.C. knot-holes. Noise readings were taken on behalf of the County Council Planning Department, and were used by them at a Public Inquiry when Hoverair Ltd. appealed against their refusal of planning permission.

Other complaints of noise were of a minor nature and were dealt with informally.

NUISANCES.

Abated as a result of informal action	.....	.....	.....	76
Abated as a result of Statutory action	.....	.....	.....	4
Offensive trades (Health Act 1936)	.....	No. established	.....	Nil
		No. of inspections	.....	Nil

DISINFESTATION.

Rats and Mice

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

No. of houses inspected	147
No. of houses treated and cleared	147

INFECTIOUS DISEASES— VISITS AND DISINFECTION

Cases of Infectious Diseases reported	5
No. of Visits	18
Premises disinfected :— (a) Tuberculosis	Nil
(b) Others	Nil
Schools disinfected	Nil

Common Lodging Houses.

There are no Common Lodging Houses in the District.

Factories Act 1961

Premises	No. on Register	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories without power	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Factories with power	25	5	Nil	Nil
Other Premises,	6	Nil	Nil	Nil
Cases in which defects were found	Nil			

Outworkers. There are no outworkers in the District.

I should like to thank the Council and my colleagues for their support and co-operation during the year.

L. DEARDEN,
Surveyor and Public Health Inspector.

